

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 DHA-02 MCT-01 /082 W
 -----032328Z 002831 /70

R 031341Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6988
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: WHITES TO HOLD REFERENDUM: TURNHALLE
PLENARY RESUMES

REF: (A) PRETORIA 818, (B) PRETORIA 893

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ALL-WHITE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA
LAST WEEK PASSED ENABLING LEGISLATION PROVIDING
FRAMEWORK FOR WHITE REFERENDUM ON TURNHALLE PROPOSALS,
AS REQUESTED BY CONSERVATIVE EBEN VAN ZIJL. SWA
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL IN DUE COURSE SET DATE FOR
REFERENDUM, WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE SHORTLY AFTER
CONCLUSION OF PRESENT TURNHALLE MEETINGS.

2. ON MARCH 2, TURNHALLE MET FOR FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL
MONTHS IN FULL PLENARY SESSIONS. DELEGATIONS ARE
REVIEWING ALL PROPOSALS RELATING TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT

WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED ON BY CONSENSUS. DURING AFTER-NOONS, ABBREVIATED CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE IS MEETING TO ATTEMPT TO IRON OUT THE THREE REMAINING PRINCIPAL ISSUES:

A. COMPOSITION OF CABINET OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT;

B. FUNCTION AND POWERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER, OR CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS;

C. TECHNIQUE FOR LEGAL ENFORCEMENT OF BILL OF RIGHTS.

3. MEETINGS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS, DURING WHICH TIME IT IS HOPED CONSENSUS CAN BE REACHED ON ABOVE PROBLEMS. THIS WOULD PERMIT FORWARDING OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT FOR ACTION BEFORE END OF JUNE. ON-SCENE OBSERVERS SAY THERE IS POSITIVE AIR OF EXPECTANCY THAT PROBLEMS CAN BE RESOLVED. SWAPO HARD LINE STATEMENTS OF LAST FEW DAYS SEEM TO HAVE STIMULATED DETERMINATION TO PRESS AHEAD EVEN FASTER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WHICH HAS LEGAL POWER TO SET REFERENDUM FOR ALL WHITE VOTERS, IS MADE UP ENTIRELY OF LEADING MEMBERS OF SWA NATIONAL PARTY. PARTY'S HEAD COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITHIN A FEW DAYS TO ARRANGE FOR A SPECIAL PARTY CONGRESS TOWARD THE END OF THE MONTH. FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION BY NP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONGRESS OF SUCH TURNHALLE PROPOSALS AS MAY THEN HAVE BEEN PASSED, REFERENDUM WILL BE SCHEDULED BY SWA EX COM. ENDORSEMENT OR OPPOSITION OF NP CONGRESS IS EXPECTED TO BE MAJOR FACTOR IN INFLUENCING VOTERS. PRESUMABLY, A NEGATIVE VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM COULD RESULT IN WITHDRAWAL OF AGREEMENT BY WHITE DELEGATES, COMPELLING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION. CONSERVATIVES BELIEVE THAT NEITHER VORSTER NOR SA PARLIAMENT WOULD FORCE ARRANGEMENTS ON SWA WHITES WHICH HAD BEEN DECLARED UNACCEPTABLE THROUGH REFERENDUM. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERIM GOVERNMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR01029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770074-0235
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770396/aaaadhiw.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d60a38be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 818, 77 PRETORIA 893
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3219091
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: WHITES TO HOLD REFERENDUM: TURNHALLE PLENARY RESUMES
TAGS: PINT, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d60a38be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009